



Patent
Attorney Docket No. 018773-039

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Eigo SHIMIZU et al.

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Application No.: 10/688,971

Examiner: Unassigned

Filing Date: October 21, 2003

Confirmation No.: Unassigned

Title: A COUPLING APPARATUS AND A COUPLING METHOD

**FIRST
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Enclosed is a FIRST Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying form PTO-1449 for the above-identified patent application.

- ☒ No additional fee for submission of an IDS is required.
- ☐ The fee of \$180.00 (1806) as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is also enclosed.
- ☐ A statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is also enclosed.
- ☐ A statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), and the fee of \$180.00 (1806) as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) are also enclosed.
- ☐ Charge _____ to Deposit Account No. 02-4800 for the fee due.
- ☐ A check in the amount of _____ is enclosed for the fee due.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By

Ellen Marcie Emas
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(703) 836-6620

Date: January 22, 2004



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Eigo SHIMIZU et al.)	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
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FIRST INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: January 22, 2004

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

1. JP 63-158731
2. JP 08-171865
3. JP 63-160135
4. JP 09-231912

The documents are being submitted within three (3) months of the filing or entry of the national stage of this application or before the first Office Action on the merits, whichever is later. Since these documents are being filed within the time period set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no fee or statement is required.

To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date January 22, 2004

By: 

Ellen Marcie Emas
Registration No. 32,131

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO & 1449B/PTO			Complete if Known		
FIRST INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)			Application Number	10/688,971	
			Filing Date	October 21, 2003	
			First Named Inventor	Eigo SHIMIZU et al.	
			Examiner Name	Unassigned	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	018773-039

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials	Document Number	Kind Code (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Issue/Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Document Number	Kind Code (if known)	Country	Date of Publication (MM-DD-YYYY)	Translation	
					Yes	No
	63-158731		Japan	07-01-1988	X	
	08-171865		Japan	07-02-1996	X	
	63-160135		Japan	07-02-1988	X	
	09-231912		Japan	09-05-1997	X	

NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS	
Examiner Initials	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.